



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

For the Proposed Project of Erwin Utilities Authority (Unicoi County), Tennessee

Loan No. DG7 2020-222

January 22, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (Department) State Revolving Fund Loan Program has conducted a review of the above-referenced project in accordance with the Operating Agreement between the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program. The Department has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the Department is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under the Department's EPA-approved National Environmental Policy Act-like environmental review process.

The project consists of the installation of software and software services to include the installation of approximately 5,400 ultrasonic meters with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) connectors and AMI radio receivers/modules; and the installation of 310 acoustic leak sensors/loggers/nodes. The total estimated project cost is \$2,000,000. A DWSRF loan in the amount of \$2,000,000 has been requested for this project. A map identifying Erwin Utilities Authority's Service Area accompanies this CE.

The project is eligible for a CE because undertaking this action:

1. Does not involve serious local or environmental issues;
2. Will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment either individually, cumulatively, over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local, tribal or private action(s);
3. Will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, endangered or threatened species and their habitats, or environmentally important natural resource areas, and
4. Is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

The CE determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Department and can be revoked at any time adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this CE eligibility determination will be on file with the Department and available for public review upon request.

If you wish to comment or to challenge this CE determination, send your written comment(s) to:

Ms. Felicia D. Freeman, Environmental Manager
Division of Water Resources, State Revolving Fund Loan Program
William R. Snodgrass TN Tower, 12th Floor
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Nashville, TN 37243

or call or e-mail (615) 253-5134 or felicia.d.freeman@tn.gov.